



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 8, 2014
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present: Chairman, Elaine Kelly
Janice Hight
Dan McInnis
Rick Nieber
Tony Poteete
Bob D'Amico

Also present: John Coderre, Town Administrator
Charles Gobron, Superintendent
Cheryl Levesque, Business Manager
Barbara Goodman, Dir. of Special Education/Student Support Services
Patty Cress, School Committee

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of February 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes

J. Hight moved approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014; R. Nieber seconded; motion approved unanimously.

SPED Presentation

Barbara Goodman provided a power point presentation regarding the Northborough Public Schools SPED program. The handout was distributed and discussed by the Committee. The district's percentage of students receiving some level of SPED services is 15.2%, below the state average of 17%. There are currently eighteen out-of-district placements.

K-8 Northborough Public Schools

The Superintendent distributed an information packet to the Committee and proceeded to review a power point presentation, which was distributed to the Committee in paper form.

The Superintendent first outlined the K-8 School Committee FY15 Budget goals:

- Maintain and support high quality staff and instructional programs.
- Student/teacher ratios in accordance with policy I-240 Class Size Policy.
- The initiatives of School Improvement Plans with an emphasis on innovative educational and capital items.
- Meeting the needs of all learners with a classroom model of differentiated instruction and standards-based education.

- Maintenance of the District’s capital assets with a special emphasis on safety and up-to-date energy efficiencies.
- Ensuring all students receive an educational program consistent with the state’s curriculum frameworks and Common Core of Learning, & preparing all students for success in the MCAS.
- Meeting State Benchmarks for educational technology & the Technology Plan funding goals.
- Ensuring staff and administration receive adequate training to implement the new Educator Evaluation Regulations

The Northborough School Committee Budget Summary is as follows:

FY15 Approved Budget	\$ 21,209,216
FY14 Approved Budget	\$ 20,372,560
Recommended Increase	<u>\$ 836,656</u>
Percentage Increase	4.11%

The Superintendent outlined key FY15 budget factors as follows:

- Elimination of three classroom positions due to declining enrollment (\$150,000)
- Increase in special education services \$353,000
- Increase in technology including instructional and administrative hardware & software \$50,000

The Superintendent discussed the addition of a new full-time administrative position in the Central Office to be shared between the three districts. The Northborough K-8 share will be \$40,000 but the proposal is to hire mid-year at a cost of \$20,000. The Committee questioned the exact nature of the position. The superintendent indicated the new superintendent will need to define the exact scope of the position (i.e. Asst. Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, etc.).

The Committee asked questions regarding increases in the various line items and discussed the Superintendents responses.

K-8 Budget discussion concluded

FY2015 ARHS Budget

The Superintendent distributed and reviewed his FY15 power point budget presentation. He reviewed the School Committee goals for the ARHS budget as follows:

- Maintain high quality staff and instructional programs.
- Strive to achieve class size according to school Committee policy.
- Prepare all students for high levels of success in various assessment measures such as MCAS, SAT, AP.
- Fund the initiatives of the School Improvement Plan
- Meet the goals set forth for educational technology in the district Technology Plan.
- Create and fund a short and long-term Capital Plan for the high school.

- Ensure that staff and administration receive adequate training to implement and adhere to the Education Evaluation Regulations in an effective manner.

The ARHS Committee Budget Summary is as follows:

FY15 ARHS Approved Budget	\$ 20,086,188
FY14 ARHS Approved Budget	\$ 19,240,779
Recommended Increase	\$ 845,409
Percentage Increase	4.39%

Northborough's FY15 assessment is \$9,006,342, which is an increase of \$171,228, or 1.94%. By comparison, Southborough's assessment is \$6,939,784, which is an increase of \$435,459 or 6.69%.

The Superintendent discussed the unpredictability of the state's minimum contribution formula. During FY14 the Town of Northborough received a \$164,727 credit due to changes in the minimum contribution, which has been applied to the FY15 assessment. The application of the \$164,727 credit is one of the reasons why the assessment is only up 1.94%.

The ARHS budget is predicated on using \$600,000 from the high school Excess and Deficiency Account (budget surplus), leaving \$400,000 in the account.

The Committee thanked the Superintendent for his years of service, noting that this will be his last appearance before them before he retires.

Next Meeting Date and Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee meets next on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Any other business to come before the Committee

None

Adjournment

J. Hight moved to adjourn; R. Nieber seconded; motion was unanimous.
1:35 pm – adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Coderre, Town Administrator

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes
2. Special Education Overview Presentation
3. K-8 School Presentation
4. ARHS School Presentation

y:\john\appropriations\meeting minutes\2014\mn app 03.08.14.doc